

SENATE BILL 2273

By Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 5-8-102 and Title 55, Chapter 4, relative to payment of registration fees and motor vehicle privilege taxes by veterans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-103, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(l)

(1) As used in this subsection (l), "qualified veteran" means a person who is a resident of this state and is an honorably discharged or retired member of the United States military, or an honorably discharged, retired, or current member of a reserve or Tennessee national guard unit who was called into active military service of the United States, as defined in § 58-1-102.

(2) An owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is a qualified veteran and has been issued, or is entitled under this chapter to be issued, a registration plate pursuant to this section, shall be exempt from the payment of the regular registration fee for one (1) license plate, as prescribed under § 55-4-111, upon initial issuance and renewal.

(3) All applications for an exemption pursuant to this subsection (l) shall be accompanied by the applicant's certificate of release or discharge from active duty, department of defense form 214 (DD 214) verifying the applicant is a qualified veteran. A qualified veteran shall be required to submit the required documentation only when initially applying for the exemption provided under this subsection (l).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 5-8-102(d), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(6)

(A) In each county that has levied or may levy a motor vehicle privilege tax under either this chapter or by private act, the county may, by action of its governing body, exempt any qualified veteran, as defined in § 55-4-103(l), who has been or is issued a registration plate free of charge pursuant to § 55-4-103(l) and who resides in the county from liability for the tax.

(B) No resolution authorizing an exemption pursuant to subdivision (d)(6) shall take effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body at two (2) consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings or unless it is approved by a majority of the number of qualified voters of the county voting in an election conducted in accordance with subsection (c) on the question of whether or not qualified veterans should be exempted from the tax.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to registration plates issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2018.